

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 /120 W

-----006492 031612Z /72

O R 031520Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4699

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NO, ILO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN REACTION TO US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO

REF: STATE 261433

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: NEWS OF US DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO
BROADCAST ON NRK RADIO 0730 (LOCAL) NEWS (0130 WASHINGTON TIME)
NOVEMBER 1. NO PUBLIC OFFICIAL REACTION, BUT REGRETS OVER
US WITHDRAWAL EXPRESSED BY MFA, LO AND NAF (EMPLOYERS) TO
EMBOFF. (GON PREPARED FOR ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER COVERSACTIONS
WITH LABOR SECRETARY MARSHALL IN OSLO OCT 25-27.) LITTLE
PRESS NOTICE UNTIL NOVEMBER 3 WHEN RASH OF EDITORIAL COMMENT
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APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS, SPECULATING ON US MOTIVES AND IMPLICA-
TIONS FOR US FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. NEWS OF THE US DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO CARRIED
ON 0730 (LOCAL TIME) NRK NEWS BROADCAST (0130 WASHINGTON
TIME ON NOVEMBER 1. EMBASSY NOTIFIED MFA, LO AND NAF SAME
DAY. NO OFFICIAL REACTION FROM GON AS YET.

3. LABATT TALKED TO OFFICIALS OF MFA, LO AND NAF NOVEMBER 2. MFA EXPRESSED REGRET AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO REJOIN SOON. MINISTRY OFFICIAL EXPRESSED GON WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH US AND OTHER TO FIND SOLTIONS TO PROBLEMS AT ILO THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO COME BACK. LO AND NAF VERY SYMPATHETIC TO AFL-CIO AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VIEW ON SITUATION AT ILO. LO CHAIRMAN TOR HALVORSEN TOLD LABATT THAT US DEPARTURE WOULD NOT MAKE IT EASIER FOR OTHERS TO SET THINGS ARIGHT IN ILO. US DEPARTURE MAY HAVE THE EFFECT OF SO WEAKENING ILO THAT ONLY RECOURSE FOR PURSUING INTERNATIONAL GOALS OF WESTERN LABOR MOVEMENT WILL BE TO CONCENTRATE EFFORTS IN LABOR GROUPINGS OF NORDIC COUNCIL, EFTA, EC AND OECD (TUAC), HALVORSEN ADDED.

4. NORWEGIANS WELL PREPARED FOR US ANNOUNCEMENT BY VISIT OF SECRETARY OF LABOR MARSHALL TO OSLO, OCTOBER 25-27. SECRETARY WAS CANDID IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER NORDLI, FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND AND OFFICIALS OF LO AND NAF.

5. NOVEMBER 3 NEWSPAPERS CARRIED EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON US DECISION, FILLED WITH EXAGGERATIONS AND SPECULATION ON US MOTIVES, AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US FOREIGN POLICY. CONSERVATIVE DAILY "AFTENPOSTEN" EDITORIALIZED THAT ILO DECISION WAS EXTENSION OF DOMESTIC POLITICS, REFLECTING PRESSURE FROM LABOR AND US ISRAELI LOBBY, BUT ADDED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US ACTION CAN BE WARNING TO REGIMES THAT MISUSE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR POLITICAL AGITATION.

6. DAILY "ARBEIDERBLADET" (LABOR) WAS LESS SYMPATHETIC, AND SAW US WITHDRAWAL AS PART OF GENERAL REAAPPRAISAL OF CONTINUED US PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANAZTIONS. ARTICLE REPORTED QUOTE IF CARTER BY THIS ACTION HAS TRIED TO APPEASE THE UNIONS, HE CERTAINLY WAS GENEROUS TO AFL-CIO UNQUOTE. "ARBEIDERBLADET" COMPARED US ACTION TO THAT OF A SULKING CHILD.

7. RIGHT-CONSERVATIVE DAILY "MORGENBLADET" REGRETED US DECISION, MAINLY BECAUSE IT APPEARED TO BE A RETREAT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE FROM TOTALITARIAN FORCES. PRESENCE OF US IS NECESSARY IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE PAPER CONTINUED, IN ORDER TO PRESS THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

8. COMMENT: GREATEST CONCERN EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY BY MFA, LO AND NAF WAS ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN ILO NOW THAT US HAS GONE. THEY FEEL THAT EC NINE WILL BE ONLY WESTERN FORCE CAPABLE OF FILLING GAP LEFT BY US, BUT THEY ARE SKEPTICAL THAT LARGEST EC POWERS -- UK AND GERMANY -- WILL COOPERATE

IN MAKING EC GROUP COHESIVE FORCE FOR REFORM OF ILO.
FAILING THIS, LEADERS OF NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT, WORKER AND
EMPLOYER DELEGATIONS BELIEVE ILO WILL BE AT MERCY OF EASTERN
BLOC AND GROUP-77. THEY ALSO FEAR WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO
BY OTHER KEY WESTERN STATES.

9. NORWEGIAN CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE OF ILO HAS, WE FEEL,
BEEN GENUINE ALL ALONG. THE NORWEGIANS LIKE OTHER HOWEVER
PROBABLY DECEIVED THEMSELVES ABOUT OUR SERIOUSNESS IN IMPLE-
MENTING OUR INTENT TO WITHDRAW. NORWAY WILL, WE FEEL SURE,
REMAIN OPEN TO POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH US AND OTHER SYMPATHETIC
COUNTRIES IN TRYING TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S
PROBLEMS IN ORDER THAT THE US MAY REJOIN. THE US WITHDRAWAL
HAS CERTAINLY IMPRESSED UPON THE NORWEGIANS THE URGENCY OF SUCH
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Litigation Codes:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 261433
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 387435
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIAN REACTION TO US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO
TAGS: ELAB, NO, US, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbsc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a57ae0d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009